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Life In The Diplomatic Services

**SPIES BEHIND THE PIL-
LARS, BANDITS AT THE
PASS** by Kathleen Trautman
(David McKay Co., Inc.: 244
pages, \$6.95).

Combining "The Ugly
American" with "Please
Don't Eat The Daisies" would
seem to be an impossible
task. Yet Kathleen Trautman
has managed to do just that
in "Spies Behind The Pillars,
Bandits At The Pass."

Mrs. Trautman, her hus-
band, Bob, a newsman, and
their two young sons were
sent to Afghanistan by the
United States Information
Service in 1967-68. There,
they landed at Kabul and
were swept up in the life of a
nation that is just beginning
to learn about the 20th Centu-
ry.

Superimposed on the ways
of the Eastern capital are the
American, English, Russian,
Red Chinese, German,
French and you-name-it col-
onies. Mrs. Trautman man-
aged to escape much of the
bitter internal social warfare
being waged among the for-
eign service people in the en-
clave of the U.S. representa-
tives. They also eluded some
of the more depressing as-
pects of espionage, represent-
ed by the CIA and all those
others.

The life, the people and the
hazards of raising a family in
less-than-hygienic circum-
stances are all presented
here with honesty and forth-
rightness. "Spies" is a wom-
an's book . . . certainly one
that no man could write, be-
cause it is a wife and mother
speaking . . . but a lot of men
in the State Department and
the CIA might do well to ex-
amine it.

Ed Hutchings